

SECRET

IN 3-342/71
28 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. John Martin
Office of Science and Technology
Executive Office of the President

SUBJECT: African Swine Fever-Cuba

REFERENCE: NPIC Project 251272

1. In response to a request by LTC William Williamson, formerly of your office, the National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) has searched recent photography of Cuba for evidence of African swine fever. No evidence of such activity was detected.

25X1D

2. Twelve OLB BRAD missions, flown [REDACTED] which covered 96 percent of the western provinces of Cuba, (Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, and Cienfuegos) were carefully searched. Two large hoggeries and several smaller hoggeries as well as three slaughter houses were studied. Activity at each of these appeared to be normal.

25X1D

3. The swine fever epidemic reportedly reached its peak in Havana Province during the early [REDACTED] OLB BRAD missions did not cover Havana Province.

25X1D
25X1B

Coverage of Havana Province [REDACTED] (the most recent) revealed no activity related to the reported African swine fever epidemic.

25X1D

25X1D

25X1A

Chief, [REDACTED] Group,
NPIC

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25X1A

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ARGO HISTORY

In January 1967 the President's Science Advisor, Dr. Horning, initiated a program to test, on a limited basis, the utility of classified reconnaissance products as a tool for earth resource assessment. This study was concurred in by the DCI, Mr. Helms, and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Vance. This program was called ARGO in order to provide an unclassified name for the effort. The objectives of the initial ARGO effort were:

1. "To evaluate the existing classified usefullness for physical resource surveys, and its bearing on the design of future systems."
2. "To develop a small cadre of civilian agency personnel who will know what information is available and how the photography can be used."
3. "To produce a resource inventory of a particular area of interest to USAID to show what might be done with the existing photography and to determine whether the work should be extended."

A group of scientists from the Department of Interior (USGS), Department of Agriculture, Department of State (AID), Department of Commerce (C&GS now NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) were cleared to perform this study. At the same time a ARGO steering group, under the chairmanship of the Office of Science and Technology, was established. Membership of this steering group was comprised of departmental representatives of the above organization. The DCI appointed the Chairman of COMOR as an observer and DoD appointed the Deputy Director for Mapping, Charting and Geodesy, DIA as an observer. The and NPIC provided technical advisors to the effort. This arrangement provided two essential functions. It allowed the DCI to monitor the activities of the group to insure the protection of the classified materials and provided for the acquisition ,

on a non-interference basis, in response to the civil agencies requirements without involving the DCI in formulating or validating these requirements.

The initial ARGO Study Report concluded that the reconnaissance systems had application in varying degrees to many problem areas such as:

Forestry and Agriculture Land Use

Topographic Mapping

Hydrological Mapping

Disaster Relief Planning

Urban Development

Marine Sciences

Geology and Mineral Exploration

The report also concluded the civil agencies were quite limited in their use of this material because of the requirement for special security clearance of personnel, physical security of facilities, handling the photography, and lack of modern equipment to extract the information from the photography.

Upon completion of the initial study the ARGO working group was disbanded and continued studies and pilot projects were to be done by the individual civil agencies under the auspices of the ARGO Steering Committee.

During the period from 1969-1972 the ARGO Steering Committee was quite effective in defining collection requirements for specific projects which were then acted upon by the DCI through the COMIREX and USIB mechanism. Also personnel clearance requirements were also efficiently handled in this manner. The ARGO Steering Committee was not successful, however, in establishing the comprehensive civil agency requirements or in

fostering truly operational use of this imagery by the civil agencies, except for limited topographic mapping by the USGS. The reasons for the lack of success of the ARGO effort in these two areas vary between agencies but to a large measure they can be summed as follows:

1. The desire of the civil agencies to operate their own systems;

2. Competition for dollar resources to start new programs which depended on collection of imagery which they could not fully control and the continuance of their current programs.

Since the disestablishment of the Office of Science and Technology, the ARGO effort has been dormant. The Office of Management and Budget, in 1972, conducted a total Federal Mapping Study and has again pointed up the potential cost saving to collect imagery for the civil agencies

In order to accomplish this under the limitations placed on the use of national intelligence resources by the National Defense Act of 1947 as amended, these must be acting in response to civil agency requirements, not intelligence agency requirements. The NSC has proposed that the NASA chaired

Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Earth Resources Survey Program (ICCERSP) assume responsibility for the establishment of the civil agencies imagery collection requirements and that it form a civil applications panel under the Secretary of Interior to receive, evaluate, consolidate, standardize, prioritize, and transmit to the DCI through the Chairman of COMIREX all requests for classified reconnaissance data from the civil community. The panel will act as the interface between civil users and the intelligence collectors, recognizing that the Director of Central Intelligence will not be involved in judgments concerning civil users needs or priorities

The President approved a USIB recommendation on 23 November 1973 to ease the security restrictions

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